

# HAMATEUR CHATTER

The World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club - since 1917

February, 1999 Vol. 07 No. 02

## club officers

President ----- 529-5583  
 Dave DeFebo ----- WB9BWP

1st V. Pres. ----- 475-6404  
 Matt Planning ----- KB9PRC

2nd V. Pres. ----- 548-6138  
 Brian White ----- KB9LCQ

Secretary 1 (414) 968-2724  
 Jim Tromblay ----- WB9LNU

Treasurer ----- 796-0969  
 Ken Eggert ----- W9MOT

### Board of Directors

Mark Bye ----- KB9LDX  
 (97-99) ----- 447-8090

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA  
 (97-99) ----- 344-4694

Rick Kissell ----- WB9GYT  
 (97-99) ----- 643-8039

Rich McNew --- WB9PTC  
 (98-00) ----- 453-6781

Gerald Melotik - KC9EV  
 (98-00) ----- 358-0107

???? ----- ??????  
 (98-00) ----- ???-????

## From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP



Dave DeFebo

**F**irst one piece of business type stuff. Our March meeting will be 1 week earlier than usual, Thursday, March 18. Our special guest will be Bart Jahnke, W9JJ of the ARRL. Bart is not an elected official, but a paid employee. His job is that of managing the ARRL VEC operations. He also serves as one of only 3 people on the Question Pool Committee. Those are the people who actually create all of the possible questions which could appear on any amateur license exam. I want to see a big crowd for Bart's appearance. Be sure to tell anyone you talk to about

the meeting. As always, our meetings are open to anyone, member or not, ham or not. Anyone involved with any of the local groups who do testing through the ARRL (as opposed to MRAC) should also want to attend to get a chance to meet the person they may have talked with in their testing duties. Now on to the main subject this month.

I usually write my "stuff" about 1 month before you get a chance to read it. As a result some late breaking news has to wait a month or so. Unfortu-

continued on page 2

## Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	7:00 PM	442.200	General Racine N9OEZ repeater
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910	Computer Net

FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	W9RH 10 meter MRAC Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045	W9RH 2 mtr. net following the 10 mtr. net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910	Saturday Nite Fun net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910	Swap Net

The 2 meter frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho KA9OFA at 344-4694 or call 466-HAMS.

nately now it is time to take care of some bad news. Any organization as old as MRAC is bound to have members pass away. Many times they are people who we have not seen or heard from for some time. They may have been people who were members but never officers or performed some other club function. Many of the people I knew only by name. Over the last few months, the club has lost 6 members. Not wanting to ignore anyone, but some of those who passed are people who did a great deal of work on behalf of the club. These are people who I got to know as more than just a name and had the pleasure to work with. It's time to officially remember them.

**L**ast fall the Club lost Phil Lehman KB9FOQ. He was 84 years old. Phil had been a member for about 8 years. Not really a long time compared to many of our members. But the time was quality time. Phil was blind. Actually he could see shapes, but gradually he lost more and more of his sight until he was 100% blind. Phil lived at the Village at Manor Park where he was active on the low bands and 2 meters. You know, that was where we held classes and testing for about 5 years. Phil was why we were there. When we were in need of a location to hold classes, Phil stepped in and made arrangements for us to use a basement auditorium for classes. When The Manor decided they needed the space for additional offices, Phil convinced them to allow us to use their business conference room. He was very proud of the fact he was able to help the club help people get their licenses. While his health was good, he would stand at the front entrance greeting everyone and giving directions to where classes were being held. We stopped using the

Manor in 1996 as we did not want to overstay our welcome (they could have easily thrown us out after they took the basement).

**I**n November the club lost long time member Fred Krause W9VLK. Only old timers knew Fred as he was pretty quiet (he referred to himself as the silent key) and stayed in the background. Being quiet and in the background does not mean he did not do work for the club. For years when we were meeting at Wauwatosa Savings, Fred was the person who made sure the club got on the room list each year. He also handled the meeting sign in sheets and was the keeper of the name tags (and sometimes the room key). He helped out at many VE testing sessions. He also did a lot of driving for the club, delivering things and people. He manned club tables at HamFests. Any time the club asked for contributions for any purpose Fred freely gave, more than most. Over the last year he was cleaning out his collection of parts and equipment and often brought items for the meeting raffles. I was given a grid dip meter (in excellent condition) from Fred's most recent housecleaning. All that and he made most meetings each year.

**I**n mid January, the club lost Dick Schlatterer KA9MTY. Dick joined the club around 1980. He came up through the ranks (making Advanced) by attending the club's license classes. Since becoming a member, Dick attended and was a major operator at most every field day, often being one of the few and the brave who stayed through the night. He also served as a director for a couple of terms. For a number of years, Dick was the brains behind the team of Dick and Jerry Thompson (Jerry

said so) who made sure the monthly Chatters were labeled and stamped and mailed out to our members. He was very active in 10-10 and with the local group even holding an annual picnic at his house. If that was not enough, for a couple of years Dick demonstrated he was not just some geeky ham by playing the trumpet and singing at club Christmas parties.

**F**inally, just a day after attending Dick's funeral, while on the phone with a long time friend, Ed Wille W9PWG had his fourth and final heart at-



*Ed at Christmas Party*

tack. Ed had the distinction of working for Charlie Kaetel when Charlie had an antenna business. Those of you who knew Charlie knew how hard a job that must have been. Over the years Ed was in and out of the club as he had his own business to run. He also took care of his wife during her long illness. Harry Ciezski takes the credit for bringing Ed back into club activity, getting him to run for office and then becoming President when Harry ran off to Florida. He must have liked being President, he did it for 8 years. I think that is the longest consecutive streak of any of our 60 or so presidents. Being President was not enough for Ed (he was still running his business). He decided the club PA was too big and bulky, so he brought along his

**continued on page 3**

own wireless PA. When Wauwatosa Savings decided it wanted the space from its meeting hall, Ed set up the club to meet at his church. When he found a deal on a repeater he acted on it using his own money to buy it (we did pay him back) and then set it up in his garage and on his tower. When he thought we should have flowers on the tables at the Christmas party, he (the business) paid for them. When we needed somebody to take over VEC operations, he stepped in and did it. The things he was responsible for are too numerous to list in this space. The board spent over 2 hours discussing how we pick up where Ed left off. Besides what I have already mentioned there were procuring and being the keeper of club owned radios, school and museum demonstrations, club tables at HamFests, club anten-

nas, 10 meter and 2 meter club nets, Saturday morning breakfasts, 466-HAMS telephone, Chatter proofreading and delivering to the printer, bringing Jim Tromblay, Rick Kissell and others into the club, and providing A/V equipment for club meetings. When I couldn't find anyone else to help teaching license classes, Ed stepped in. He was even taking care of disposing of Fred Krause equipment when Fred died. Maybe his biggest problem was he didn't say no often enough. I don't think he ever turned down a request for help from anyone.

**W**e as club officers have our work cut out for us in trying to find the 12 or so people to take over what these people did for the club. While I may not have known Phil, Fred, Dick, or Ed as well as some of you, I am proud to have

known them, and to have worked with them. The club is better off for having had them as members.

P.S. Just as I was about to send this month's "stuff" into Pancho, I learned of Elmer Gutknecht's passing. Elmer did not have as long a resume with the club as the people I have discussed. Elmer was not even a ham. But he was interested in what we were doing and had been a member since 1982. Up until the last year or so, as his illness was winning out, he attended just about every club meeting and Christmas Party. His presence will be missed.

73,

Dave - WB9BWP

*David B. Webster*

## Morse Code Disappearing from Distress Calls

Associated Press

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Feb. 1, 1999

**L**ondon — Morse code officially goes out of use today for most ships in distress at sea.

The International Maritime Organization set Feb. 1 as its target date to replace dots and dashes with a satellite system — The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System — that can pinpoint the location of a ship signaling for help.

The new system is mandatory for all international freighters over 300 gross tons, all passenger vessels and self-propelled oil drilling units. Coastal freighters, most fishing boats and pleasure craft are ex-

empt.

However, Lloyd's List, a maritime industry newspaper published in London, estimated in December that a quarter or more of the world's ships still had not been fitted with the necessary equipment which costs a minimum of \$30,000.

Panama, which has the world's largest registry of ships, has announced fines of up to \$10,000 for ships which fail to comply, Lloyd's List reported.

The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System has been phased in, beginning in 1992.

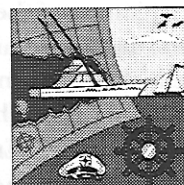
Distress signals are beamed from a ship to an Inmarsat station on the ground. The ground facilities are at Raisting, Germany; Gonnihilly Downs, England; Perth, Australia, and Niles Canyon, Calif. The locating system is accurate within 200

yards, the IMO says.

It was 100 years ago that a radio message first set off a rescue mission at sea. A lightship called for assistance when it saw the steamship Elbe run aground off Dover, England, The IMO said.

The SOS signal was adopted at an international conference convened three months after the Titanic sank in 1912.

According to the IMO, the signal was adopted because it was easily recognizable — three dots, three dashes and three dots — and not because SOS stood for anything such as "save our souls."





# Tribute to Ed - W9PWG

January 28, 1999

Pancho Doneis 1958 N. 38th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

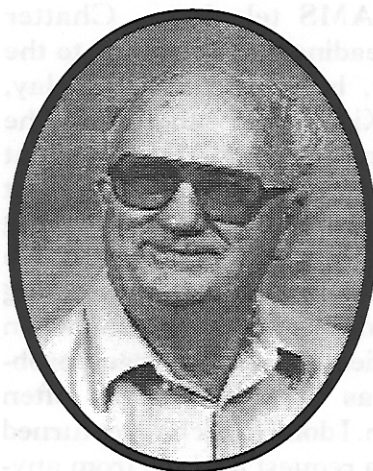
Dear Pancho,

Enclosed is a copy of the tribute I gave at Ed Wille's funeral. Since I spoke from notes, I am relying more on memory and may not include some of the things I shared. I will jot down the tribute focus. The sermon part is more sketchy.

Tribute/In Memoriam

On Thursday of this past week (Jan. 14), Ed died peacefully and quietly in his home of many years on Caldwell Court. While death is always a surprise, we all know Ed lived by God's grace, one day at a time. While Ed's heart was weak, his spirit for life remained remarkably strong. I thank God that Ed was able to work and be surrounded by his precious daughter, Susan, and faithful working partner and adopted son, Jim. There was something special about their working relationship.

God blessed Ed in many ways. Over the years, I came to know Ed and his true colors as I ministered to his wife, Ruth, who was confined to their home with debilitating illness. He loved Ruth dearly and cared for her in so many special ways. God blessed them with a good marriage. I grew to appreciate Ed and recognized that no matter what the personal weather of his life was like, be it cloudy or sunny, he always looked for the positive and remained hopeful about the future. God blessed Ed Wille with a remarkable resiliency and love for life. Who can forget Ed's stentorian, mellifluous voice. Ed was born during the advent and development of radio, pursued a vocation in radio and engineering, and perfected his voice early when he was a pioneer of the radio station WFOX and developed his own talk show as a disc jockey on "Uncle Eddie's Hour." Later, he perfected his love for radio as part of Ken-Com Engineering and installed many sound systems



Ed - W9PWG

throughout the area. He continued to share his gifts by creating sound/video service, which he operated with his daughter Susan and good friend Jim. Ed was blessed in knowing his true vocation (calling) and he loved what he did for a profession all his life.

God blessed Ed Wille with a strong and good German family that, by today's standards, was poor and had very little during the Depression, yet was rich in what matters the most—loving relationships. Ed's father was a letter carrier, an electronic wizard of sorts, and his son, Ed Wille, was encouraged to be a tinker/inventor, taker-apart of clocks and radios from the day he was born. He was surrounded by four older sisters, and his mother was a lover of music. In many ways, Ed Wille used his native intelligence, was self-educated, and part of the pioneer spirit of early radio in this generation. God was good to Ed.

The day Ed died, I was privileged to see for the first time the room in his home where he spent many hours talking and listening on his beloved ham radio equipment. I was humbled as I saw the map of the world on his wall which pointed out the many friendships and contacts he had made with people around the world. I am sure that his love for the world was cultivated

during World War II when he served in the Navy as a radio operator. Ed knew the importance of communication all his life.

Which leads me to the gospel. We gather in this place to remember a child of God, Ed Wille, and to listen to a living voice that speaks to us through the word of scripture. I discovered that Ed requested that the 23rd Psalm be read at his funeral in his pre-planning. A Bible verse that I choose to lift up is from St. John 10:38:

Jesus said, 'My sheep hear my voice and I know them.

I give them life, eternal life, and they will never perish

While Ed was a listener to many voices over the radio in his life, it is important that we remember that we listen in faith to the voice of God who blesses us with his promise that is spoken to us in scripture, particularly at the time of death. And Jesus said, "I give you life, eternal life, and you will never perish."

We gather to hear that voice. It is important to remember that it is not the goodness or greatness of Ed Wille that is important to God. It is the goodness and greatness of God that is revealed to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. By God's mercy and by Ed's faith in the promise of new life that comes through Christ, we can hope and proclaim what Easter is all about. Death is not the last word. God's promise in Christ is the lasting word of new life. We celebrate God's voice to Ed, God's promise to us all that, in the words of St. Paul, "If we live, we live to the Lord, if we die, we die to the Lord, so whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord." We give thanks for the lasting relationship in Christ who is the door to eternal life, the good shepherd of his sheep. Amen.

*Pastor Carl Lund*



# MRAC Board Meeting 11/16/98

The November meeting was held one week early due to Thanksgiving. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 at (KB9LDX) Mark's QTH.

Meeting minutes were taken by Matt due to the secretary's absence. Treasurer's report — Liquid assets \$3621.28 plus \$6K in CD's.

Discussion on the possibility of Bart Jahnke of the VEC group coming to a club meeting in March on the 18th or 19th. A motion was made and seconded to pay for Bart's trip if we can get him to come. Ed will check on the availability of the church since Bart would be coming one week earlier than our normal meeting date. More info on this in next month's 'Chatter.

Jerry Melotic - KC9EV made a motion that we donate \$100 to the church at this year's end. The motion was seconded by Rick - WB9GYT.

Motion to renew Smoke Signals for 3 years and seconded by Pancho. Pancho uses info from Smoke Signals for our 'Chatter with credit to the source, of course.

Motion to try a 1 year trial subscription to ARNS. Seconded by Jerry.

Next board meeting possible location, Rick - WB9GYT.

KB9NRS, a guest to the meeting presented some ideas he has on having a club patch (for jackets, etc.) made. A suggestion was made to have 3 members get together with Al and formulate a final plan for the patch and re-

search the prices.

The majority of board members voted not to have the ARRL logo on the patch. Anyone who wants to display the ARRL logo can do so by buying an ARRL patch.

Add on's such as VE or Field Day were discussed. More on this at the next board meeting.

Ed told of the sad news of the death of Fred Krause - W9VLK.

Final discussion on the Christmas party.

The meeting adjourned.

Minutes were taken by Matt WB9PRC and entered into the club's records by Jim - WB9LNU.

*Jim WB9LNU*  
Secretary

## Letter from Bessie

January 31, 1999

Dear Editor:

Because my cooperation is appreciated to send the following story to you, I worked until the wee hours of the above date.

Enclosed, find picture of our Beloved president Edward F. Wille, may he rest in peace, and may his memory be Eternal.

Also I am sending you a picture taken 6/94 at pioneer Village, Cedarburg Field Day. When I came in to the Pioneer Village building, I was astonished to see a stove which I was very familiar with.

I admired this old time stove, and bowed my head, because there was such sentiment behind it.

Our President, Ed Wille was evidently watching me, and said to me "Bessie hold your transceiver HTX 202 in your hand and stand next to the stove," then he took the instant picture, which I am sending you. (Warren - K9IZV are you reading this?)

When I was young, we had a stove just like this in our kitchen. We



*Bessie at Field Day*

had another bigger stove in the dining room for which my father bought hard coal. In order to save money, he had a coaster wagon, and went around the neighborhood looking for wood at con-

struction sites for the kitchen stove. When the construction workers saw my father coming with his wagon, they would say, "He has the coaster wagon, why doesn't he go for Outdoor Relief (welfare)." He would saw the wood to warm up the kitchen, because in those days (depression days) every penny counted to feed four children. Once sitting behind this stove warming up, the pipe fell on my shoulder, but it was cool, and my mother had to pull me away for I was stunned and cold. Soot all over me head and face and on the floor, my mother had to put on gloves to put the pipes together. Then she cleaned me and the floor, put wood in the stove and life went on.

My, what wonderful memories. We did not have much, but neither did anyone else. These memories are always remembered, but not forgotten.

73's to my Ham friends

*Edward F. Wille*  
1/4/99

# MRAC Club Meeting 11/19/98

The meeting was called to order at 7:35.

Previous meeting minutes were read and corrected.

Treasurers report -- \$3621.28  
Liquid assets \$9621.28 total  
with CD's.

Ken also reminded everyone that club dues are due by January 1st. You will not receive a Chatter after February if you do not pay the dues."

The mic was passed for all to I.D.

Dave reminded everyone that the deadline to register for the Christmas dinner is December 9 and the party will be December 13 at Aliotos.

Dave sent some invitations to some other local club officers to invite them to the party.

In March we will start a new list for a new club roster. Also in March, we are trying to invite Bart Johnke, the VEC group leader or the new winner of the ARRL di-

vision election. The members have requested that the talk be on the new FCC license restructuring. And of course if Bart comes, we will also hear about the latest developments in the VEC program.

Dave also reminded everyone that the ARRL and the FCC are still looking for your comments on the new license structure proposals.

Roger W9UVV, informed everyone that the ARRL is asking individuals and clubs to donate money to the Defend Our Frequencies Fund. Since the ARRL is our major voice on this subject we should seriously consider helping out. Dave asked the members if we should send some money on behalf of the club. Vern Teske - W9RYA made a motion that the club donate \$200.00 and the motion was seconded. A discussion on the pro's and con's of donating the money followed.

Rick WB9GYT voiced his displeasure with the ARRL and lack of help on the Milwaukee tower ordinance problem. The group over all decided that this is a worth while cause and voted YES to sending the money. Dave so ordered the Treasurer to send the check on behalf of MRAC.

Ed -- VE testing has been canceled at the South Wauwatosa Bank due to lack of people showing up to be tested. All testing will be at AES.

Don't forget the West Allis Club swap fest on Jan. 9 at the Waukesha Expo Center.

Dave -- Gave last minute thanks to all that have helped run the club this past year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim WB9LNU*

Jim - WB9LNU, Secretary

## W9PWG

On January 14th the club lost one of it's most active members in recent years. Ed died while talking to one of his customers for Sound and Video Service. The customer he was talking to was the one who called 911. Just a half hour before I talked with Ed on the repeater and he asked that I call him as soon as I get home, he had so much to tell me. When I called, the rescue people answered, he was gone. Ed had several previous sessions of Congestive Heart Failure and a 10 year history of heart trouble. Ed was 74 and survived by his daughter, Susan.

Ed started his electronics on a carrier in WW2 as a radio operator in the Philippines. After the war he worked for Curtis Electric, AC Electronics, WFOX and Ken



Ed - W9PWG

Com before becoming the owner of Ken Com Engineering and finally the owner of Sound and Video Service. Ed's hobbies were photography and of course Ham Radio.

To most of the club members, Ed is known for his willingness to help anyone who asked. His lifetime of technical experience was very hard

to match. He always took great pride in knowing the answers to technical questions. He especially enjoyed teaching math and radio for MRAC's Advanced and Extra classes. Ed was club President for 8 years, VEC, director several times, a major player for the last 10 years at Field Day and always willing to be the speaker at club meetings.

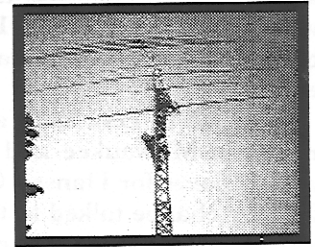
Ed purchased the club's repeater and got it licensed. The repeater has been in his garage all these years. The majority of the time he was the 10 meter and 2 meter net control. He provided the club sound system, VCR, overhead projector and much of the equipment used on Field Days. I personally have worked with Ed since 1968. I have lost my best friend and can only hope that I someday can leave such a good lasting impression on all the lives that I touch, just as Ed did.

Jim - WB9LNU

# Rick - WB9GYT's Latest contacts

Please note: This column isn't supposed to be a "one-man show", so please submit your DX reports for inclusion! Users of the World Wide Web can find up-to-the-minute DX spots at: <http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs>. Let's see your contacts.

DATE	GMT/UTC	STATION	FREQUENCY	RS(T)	QTH
1/8/99	0316	LU5VC	10.108	339/449	Bariloche, s. Argentina
1/11/99	0041	ZL9CI	24.894	339	Chatham Island, s. Pacific
1/17/99	1745	9A3NC/MM	28.005	339	Croatian ship nr Azores Isl.
1/18/99	0206	EL2WW	10.102	339	Liberia, w. Africa
1/18/99	2232	SM3EVR	24.902	539	Njurunda, Sweden
1/11/99	2010	ZL9CI	18.074	339	Chatham Island, s. Pacific
1/20/99	2336	JQ6RUP	28.020	449	Fukugaka, Japan
1/23/99	2059	FG5FR	28.018	579	Guadeloupe, Fr. W. Indies
1/24/99	1838	J3/VE3EBN	28.020	599	Grenada, W. Indies
1/24/99	1858	CP4BT	28.014	439	Uyuni, Bolivia
1/24/99	1923	HC1/DL6FBK	28.023	569	Quito, Ecuador
1/28/99	1831	CO9NAA	28.008	339	Santiago de Cuba
1/28/99	1903	PT5T	28.020	339	Brazilian IOTA Dxpedition
1/29/99	2316	CX3AL	24.899	339	Montevideo, Uruguay
1/30/99	1742	LU6UBN	28.010	559	Las Pampas prov., Argentina
1/31/99	1646	TM5REF	28.019	599	France's "W1AW"
2/1/99	2306	XQ0YAF	28.009	229/339	Easter Island, Chile
2/2/99	2106	FO0XUU	21.024	449	Austral Isl., Fr. Polynesia
2/2/99	2159	JL1KFR/JD1	24.892	339	Minami Torishima Island
2/2/99	2253	UA0KCL	18.073	549	Pevek, a Siberian village on Arctic Ocean
2/5/99	1404	SV2DFA	18.070	439	Thessaloniki, n. Greece
2/5/99	2255	T33VU	24.891	339	Banaba Island, s.w. Pacific
2/8/99	0506	LZ0A	10.107	559	Livingstone Island (Antarctica)
2/9/99	1536	OM5DP	24.895	589	Nestvady, Slovakia
2/10/99	1730	Z2/VK3DXI	18.075	229/339	Australian in Zimbabwe
2/10/99	1802	EI6FR	18.070	439/559	Dublin, Ireland
2/11/99	0454	HC8N	10.107	569	Galapagos Islands, Ecuador
2/12/99	1954	LU8VFM/QRP	28.024	229/339	El Bolsón, Río Negro, Argentina
2/12/99	2115	V47KP	8.073	569	St. Kitts Island, Brit. W. Indies
2/13/99	0302	RZ0IWR	14.027	449/559	Palatka, s.w. Siberia
2/13/99	1406	OK2PXX	28.002	439	Napajedla, Czech Republic
2/13/99	1419	5A1A	24.910	559	Tripoli, Libya
2/13/99	1444	ISOIGV	28.017	559	Cagliari, Sardinia
2/15/99	0125	UA0QMU	10.102	449	Kotelny Island, Arctic Ocean
2/15/99	1535	RV3IM	18.078	339	Tver, n.e. Russia
2/15/99	1605	ZB2FK	24.910	569	Gibraltar
2/15/99	1719	OM8UA	18.071	329	Poprad, Slovakia
2/15/99	1802	GW3HGI	24.892	579	Chepstun, Wales
2/15/99	1813	5H3RK	28.017	599+	Tanzania, e. Africa
2/16/99	2336	VR2BG	24.892	579	Hong Kong
2/17/99	0008	HK0ER	24.890	449	San Andrés Island, Colombia
2/17/99	1627	4U1ITU	24.892	559	Intl. Telecom. Union, Geneva
2/17/99	1630	CO8ZZ	28.016	599	Las Tunas, Cuba
2/17/99	1649	KG4ZK	24.894	599+	U. S. Naval Base, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba
2/17/99	2223	IT9ELD	14.030	569	Catania, Sicily
2/17/99	2303	FO0MET	24.900	439	Bora-Bora, French Polynesia
2/18/99	0153	UA0AZ	14.023	559	Krasnoyarsk, central Siberia
2/18/99	1728	3E1CW	24.899	579	Panamanian IOTA DXpedition



*KB9QMV and WB9RSK  
Putt'n up Rick's Antenna*





# Silent Keys

I am sorry to add to our recent string of silent keys by reporting that Elmer Gutknecht, 70, passed away today January 27, 1999, after about a year's valiant fight against leukemia.

In the fall of 1949, soon after I had arrived in Milwaukee and had a job packing boxes for Hansen Glove Mfg. Co., I by chance talked to two gentlemen at a crowded lunch counter on Third Street (near North Ave.). They turned out to be the owners of the Wisconsin Sound Equipment Co., and by the time lunch was over, they offered me a job installing sound systems and such. The Service Manager at Wisconsin Sound was Elmer Gutknecht, and looking back over my life, I would say that this encounter was one of the most fortunate things that happened to me.

At that time I was alone in Milwaukee, and Elmer became to me teacher, advisor, and friend. Elmer taught me how to repair amplifiers, intercom systems, 16-mm sound movie projectors, wire recorders (tape came later), and even one of the first telephone answering machines (used vacuum tubes, of

course, and wire recording). On week-ends I sometimes helped him in his basement radio repair shop (near 22nd & Keefe) where I learned alignment, how to recognize the effects of a bad filter electrolytic, and many other such tricks of the trade.

When the first minimum wage was introduced, Elmer caused my raise to be more than would have been necessary to bring me to the new legal minimum. He was the person who taught me to drive, and has helped me with all my car problems ever since. Later, while I studied engineering and worked part time, he arranged for me to have a key to the store, so that I could repair sound equipment and projectors at night or whenever it fit my schedule.

When I returned to Milwaukee after an absence of about 10 years we resumed our friendship. By this time Elmer had established his own business and after having bought out a former competitor operated under the name of "Continental-Midwest Co." at 4604 W. Burleigh. Elmer was one of the vanishing breed of capable people who are willing to take on custom jobs which

others might decline for the sake of productivity. It was Elmer's ingenuity and interest in what he was doing, together with his wish to help a customer that filled a niche which will now be looking for another Elmer, to do an unusual assignment, but won't find one.

I used the term "silent key" above, and someone might argue with me on that, because Elmer never got himself an amateur license (although he had a commercial license), thus remaining an "associate member" of the Club. Once, when I suggested to him to just go ahead and get himself a ticket, (which he certainly could have done easily), he replied that he was working in this area all day long, and was not likely to really spend the time and effort to be the "radio amateur" that he then ought to be. But reviewing Elmer's interests, knowledge, skills, and contributions, he would certainly represent the finest class of "Amateur", and in that sense I think it is proper to honor his memory with the term "Silent Key".

There is one good person less in this world today. He will be missed, because there are not enough of them. ....

Hans Schroeder - AE9G

## Another Silent Key

Raymond R. Gabik - N9VME of Oak Creek passed away Tues. Feb. 2, 1999 at the age of 71 years. Was licensed November of 1993 and was a member of MRAC since 12/1993.

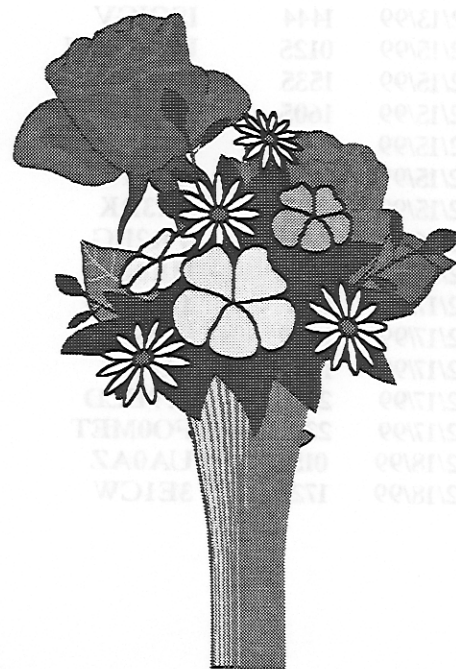
Submitted by Jim Schmidt - KB9IIH and relayed by John Merkl - WB9PSE

N9VME  
"SK"

## Illness takes toll on KA9ONQ

Orv Stewart - KA9ONQ a past treasurer and parliamentarian for our Club is on the sick list having a malignant tumor on his lung. If you would like to visit him he could sure use the company. He is in room West 741 - A at St. Joseph's Hospital on Chambers Street and his phone number is 447-3401. If you call, please let the phone ring long because he has a hard time hearing it. Also, If you do go to visit him and he is not in his room, please check with the nurses (he may be in and out for tests or Radiation Therapy).

KA9ONQ



# Our People

## March Birthdays

	Birthdate
Harold G.(Hal) Newton -- KB9OZN .....	3/06
David S. Go .....	KG9GL ..... 3/07
Willard S. Lorenz .....	W9ZOL ..... 3/10
Fred B. Mikolajewski .....	KC9WW ..... 3/13
Ed Seruga .....	KE9JJ ..... 3/13
Jack C. Krause .....	W9JK ..... 3/19

73 de KB9LCQ - Brian

# !! Happy Birthday !!

## NEWS CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles and information for the newsletter should be received by the editor no later than the first of the month of publication. If received after the first of the month, its inclusion in that month's edition cannot be guaranteed. Your cooperation is appreciated. Please mail submissions to:

HamateurChatter  
Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA  
1958 N. 38th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP	KB9GYT	WB9LNU
AE9G	KB9IIH	WB9PSE
NK9G		N9QIT

*Thank you very much!*

## Editor's Notes

Hi, again,  
Just a few notes this time.

Next month's meeting will be a week earlier than our regular meeting time. Therefore, I implore you to get your items in to me for the next 'Chatter before March 1.

I know that it has been hard for us to get our act together with all of the Silent Keys, etc., but I have to get this show on the road a week earlier than usual. 'Nuff said.

Be sure and go to see Orv Stewart - KA9ONQ at St. Joe's Hospital or at give him a call occasionally.

Keep in mind that we are always in need of more people to take care of things in the Club. Some of them are quite involved and some of them take very little effort. We have more jobs to be done than we have people to do them.

We have SuperFest at AES com-



ing up on Friday & Saturday, April 9 and 10. It would be great if we could have a Club table with info about the Club and people to answer questions about the Club, in addition to running the VE license testing. We are committed to do the testing already.

We could always use more people to help with the refreshments at the meetings, as well as helping with the 'Chatter mailing.

We will be needing a Nominating committee very soon, as well as people to run for these offices (actually, directors for the Board).

Well, I guess that's about enough for now.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

73,

Pancho - KA9OFA

# Teknolijy fer Country Folk...

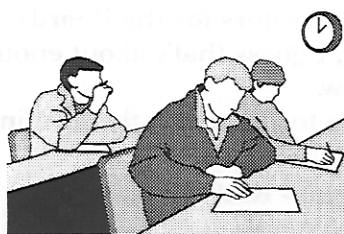
1. LOG ON: Makin' a wood stove hotter.
2. LOG OFF: Don't add no more wood.
3. MONITOR: Keepin an eye on the wood stove.
4. DOWNLOAD: Gettin the farwood off the truk.
5. MEGAHERTZ: When yer not kerful gettin the farwood.
6. FLOPPY DISC: Whatcha git from tryin to carry too much farwood.
7. RAM: That thar thing whut splits the farwood.
8. HARD DRIVE: Gettin home in the winter time.
9. PROMPT: Whut the mail ain't in the winter time.
10. WINDOWS: Whut to shut wen it's cold outside.
11. SCREEN: Whut to shut wen it's blak fly season.
12. BYTE: Whut them dang flys do.
13. CHIP: Munchies fer the TV.
14. MICRO CHIP: Whut's in the bottom of the munchie bag.
15. MODEM: Whut cha did to the hay fields.
16. DOT MATRIX: Old Dan Matrix's wife.
17. LAP TOP: Whar the kitty sleeps.
18. KEYBOARD: Whar ya hang the dang keys.
19. SOFTWARE: Them dang plastic forks and knifs.
20. MOUSE: Whut eats the grain in the barn.
21. MAINFRAME: Holds up the barn roof.
22. PORT: Fancy Flatlander wine.
23. ENTER: Northerner talk fer "C'mon in y'all".
24. RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY: Wen ya cain't 'member whut ya paid fer the rifle when yore wife asks.
25. MOUSE PAD: That hippie talk fer the rat hole.

**Injoy!**

## VE HAM RADIO EXAMS

Our VEC has been committed to do the testing sessions for Sat. March 27, 1999 at AES and also SuperFest on April 10, 1999.

If you would like to help out at these testing sessions, please contact Dave-WB9BWP



**VE HAM RADIO EXAMS**  
Walk-ins welcome, but pre-registration is encouraged if possible. To register in advance, send a post card on which you have printed the grade of license for which you are applying, your name, address and telephone number to: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club P.O. Box 25707 Milwaukee, WI 53225 For more information call: 466-HAMS.

Last Sat. of Each Month  
9:30 A.M. - Noon @  
Amateur Electronics Supply  
5700 W. Good Hope Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

You will not be permitted to take the exam without these items:  
1) Your original license (if you have one) and one photocopy of it.

2) Any CSCE's you may have (and a photocopy of each). 3) Two forms of identification (examples: driver's license and social security card) 4) \$6.45 (exam fee).

Walk-ins welcome, but pre-registration is encouraged if possible. To register in advance, send a post card on which you have printed the grade of license for which you are applying, your name, address and telephone number to:

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club  
P.O. Box 25707  
Milwaukee, WI 53225

For more information call:  
466-HAMS

If you have questions about a new license or upgrade, you may call the FCC at: 1-888-225-5322.



# A

activities  
(ham)

## CLUB MEETINGS

### Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club

Last Thursday of the month 7:30 p.m.  
Redemption Lutheran Church  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

### Ozaukee Radio Club

Second Wed. of each month  
7:30 p.m.  
Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center  
Grafton, WI

## CLUB MEETINGS continued

### Menomonee Falls Amateur Club

Last Wed of the month  
Doors open @ 7:00 p.m. Mtg. @ 7:30 p.m.  
Bank One Bldg. @  
Pilgrim Rd. and Mequon Rd.  
Germantown, WI

### Miller Valley Radio Amateur Club

Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.  
at 703 N. 39th St.,  
just north of (and almost under)  
the Wis. Ave. viaduct.  
For info contact: Art - WA9AWJ  
(found daily on the 146.91 repeater).

### South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

First Wednesday of each month  
American Legion Post 434  
9327 S. Sheppard Ave.  
Oak Creek, WI  
Auction at March & October mtgs.

### West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Meets the second Tuesday of each month  
at 8:00 p.m.  
At St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
7929 W. Lincoln Ave.  
West Allis, WI

## HAM CLUB ACTIVITIES

### CQ Third Tuesday

11:00 a.m.  
Old Country Buffet  
164<sup>th</sup> and Bluemound

### Y'all come(!) to the MRAC HAM BREAKFAST

every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. at  
Maxim's Restaurant  
18025 W. Capitol Dr. (a bit west of Calhoun).  
Prices are reasonable, the food good, and the  
company excellent.

### First Friday Fish Fry

Serb Hall at 51st and Oklahoma Ave. Call:  
Warren - K9IZV on the 146.91 - offset for  
reservations by noon on that FRI.

### W9RH-10 & 2 METER NETs

W9RH Ten Meter Net 8:45 PM at 28.490  
MHz. SSB Friday evenings at 9:15 2 meter FM  
repeater at 147.045 + offset. We'd like to meet  
you there.

# E

events  
(upcoming)

\* indicates VE testing

### RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION AUCTION

TUE - FEB. 23, 1999  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 53  
EAU CLAIRE, WI

### SEWFARS SWAPFEST

SUN.-MAR. 7, 1999  
Waukesha County Expo Center  
Waukesha, WI  
T/I on 146.820 PL127.3 rpt.

### 1999 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY SUN - MAR. 14, 1999

### TRI-COUNTY ARC HAMFEST 1999

SUN - MAR. 21, 1999  
Jefferson County Fairgrounds  
Jefferson, WI

### TOLEDO MOBIL RADIO ASSOCIATION HAMFEST/COMPUTER FAIR

SUN - MAR 21, 1999  
Lucas Cty Recreation Center  
Maumee, OH  
T/I on 147.27+ or 443.85+

### MADISON SWAPFEST SUN - APR. 11, 1999

MIDDLETON CONFERENCE CENTER  
MIDDLETON, WI

### CEDARBURG SWAPFEST SAT - MAY 1, 1999

Circle B Recreation Center  
Cedarburg, WI  
T/I on 146.37/97 and 146.52 simp.

### LAKESHORE HAMFEST

SAT - MAY 8, 1999  
Manitowoc County Expo  
Manitowoc, WI

### CWRA SWAPFEST SWAPFEST & AUCTION \*

JUNE 6, 1999  
UNIVERSITY CENTER  
Stevens Point, WI

### SMARC SWAPFEST '99

SAT - JULY 10, 1999  
American Legion Post 434  
Oak Creek, WI  
T/I 146.52 simp.

### EAU AMATEUR RADIO CLUB HAMFEST

SAT - JUL 10, 1999  
Eau Claire, WI

### FOX RIVER RADIO LEAGUE HAMFEST \*

SUN - JUL 18, 1999  
Sugar Grove, IL  
T/I on 147.210 + (PL103.5)

### RACINE AMATEUR RADIO AND COMPUTER SHOW

SUN - JULY 25, 1999  
South Hills Country Club  
Racine, WI



# MRAC

This Month's meeting:

**Thu. - Feb. 25, 1999**

**7:30 PM**

**Program:**

The latest findings on the Great Corrosion

Test by Matt - KB9PRC

**Location:**

**Redemption Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**Please! Don't call the Church  
for information!!!**

**Board meeting: Mon. - Feb. 22, 1999**

**Next meeting;**

**March 18th, 1999**

(A week earlier than usual)

(Our speaker couldn't make it on our  
usual meeting date)

**Hamateur Chatter Deadline is March 1, '99**

**(No Foolin')**

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Milwaukee  
Radio Amateur's Club  
P.O. Box 25707  
Milwaukee, WI 53225

**Phone 466-HAMS or Fax 461-7730 Use our Club Repeater - W9RH 147.045+ offset**

**The World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club since 1917**

# HAMATEUR CHATTER

**February, 1999 Vol. 07 No. 02**

**FROM SPARK TO SPACE**